Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 08131 140604Z ACTION NEA-10

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UNCLAS TEHRAN 8131

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: IR

SUBJ: SHAH'S REMARKS ON U.S. -- IRAN RELATIONS

1. AS PART OF LONG KAYHAN INTERVIEW PRINTED SEPTEMBER 13TH, SHAH HAD FOLLOWING REMARKS ON U.S.-- IRAN RELATIONS IN REPLY TO QUESTION ABOUT HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO WASHINGTON:

"RELATIONS BETWEEN IRAN AND THE UNITED STATES ARE GOOD AND I DON'T THINK THEY COULD BE OTHERWISE. CERTAIN THINGS THAT ARE SAID STEM FROM SPECULATIONS BY SOME OF YOUR JOURNALISTS COLLEAGUES WHO, AT TIMES, INCLINE TOWARDS SENSATIONALISM

"WHENEVER A NEW ADMINISTRATION TAKES OVER THERE ARE THOSE WHO IMAGINE THAT EVERYTHING WILL BE CHANGED. BUT IT IS ONLY INDIVIDUALS WHO CHANGE; THE LONG-TERM INTERESTS OF A NATION CANNOT CHANGE. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW THAT IF ANYONE WANTS A THIRD OR FOURTH RATE IRAN WE SHALL NOT TOLERATE THAT. WE SHALL NOT ACCEPT ANYTHING LESS THAN A FIRST CLASS POSITION FOR IRAN.

"IF THEY ACCEPT THIS, THEN THEY SHOULD MEET OUR DEMANDS. IF THEY DO NOT ACCEPT THAT...WELL, THEN I WILL SIT DOWN AND MAKE UP MY OWN MIND ABOUT THE BEST UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 08131 140604Z

MEANS OF SAFEGUARDING MY COUNTRY'S INTERESTS, ALWAYS REMEMBERING THAT IRAN MUST HAVE A FIRST CLASS STATUS."

2. COMMENT: THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE SHAH'S REMARKS ON "FIRST CLASS POSITION" REFER TO IMPORTANT IRANIAN REQUIREMENTS SUCH AS AWACS. REST OF INTERVIEW BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY.

	Margaret P. Grafeld	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	22 May 2009
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